new super-fast passenger train between Delhi|New Delhi and Howrah;

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Seven pairs of Mail|Express trains, including 2 pairs of superfast trains, are available between Delhi|New Delhi and Howrah. Besides, the frequency of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Expresses has been increased from 4 to 5 days a week from 1.10.1986. These are considered adequate for the present level of traffic.

153. [Transferred to the 14the November, 1986.]

Railway Protection Force

154. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Railway Protection Force personnel have been entrusted with the maintenance of public order under the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Act, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): No, Sir.

Employment of Railway Protection Force personnel in the Intelligence agencies

155. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force personnel are on deputation with other Departments|organisations involved in intelligence or counter intelligence operations; and

(b) if so, what, are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No. However Railway Protection Force personnel have been sent on deputation to Departments like the Civil Aviation Security, Central Bureau of Investigation, Ministry of External Affairs etc. as and when requests are received from those departments.

(b) There is no bar in sending Railway Protection Force personnel on deputation to other Departments.

Railway Protection Force as an Armed Force

156. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to declare the Railway Protection Force as an Armed Force of the Union; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide the Railway Protection Force personnel with the same facilities and perquisites as are provided to armed forces in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Government has already declared RPF as an Armed Force of the Union by amending the original Act and retaining the earlier powers of arrest and search without warrant and to conduct enquiry (investigation) under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.

(b) Having regard to the duality in the constitution and functioning of the RPF, the appropriate facilities and perquisites for the RPF are under examination.

Establishment of new Railway Division at Sambalpur

157. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the establishment of a new Railway Division at

Sambalpur was sanctioned in 1985 at an estimated cost of Rs. 450 Lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that location of site for establishment of the Railway Division has already been finalised at Konetrajpur covering an area of 45 acres for which land acquisition proceedings have already been initiated; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in setting up the division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project is being progressed consistent with availability of resources.

Development of Paradip Port

158. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group constituted by Government for export of Iron Ore and development facilities at Paradip Port has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been found technically viable and desirable from the point of view of earning additional foreign exchange and developing a backward area of the country;

(d) by when Government are likely to take a decision to implement the same; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Messrs Hyundai Corporation of South Korea have time and again reiterated their interest in developing Paradip Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main conclusions of the Working Group are as follows:

(i) The development of Paradip Port to receive 1,70,000 DWT ore vessels and draft upto 17 M is a prima facie technically feasible.

(ii) Detailed model studies should be carried out for determining the optimal lay out of the proposed facilities and evolve solutions for siltation removal and beach nourishment.

(iii) Iron ore reserves to sustain exports of 6 M.T. per annum over a period of 20 years and more are available.

(iv) A new rail link between Banspani and Diatari mine sectors needs to be established together with additional rolling stock.

(v) The total estimated investment for the project as a whole would be Rs. 438 crores.

(vi) The financial investment and pay back arrangement should be negotiated after the proposal is accepted.

(c) A final determination of the technical viability of the project, the additional foreign exchange earnings and its impact on the regional development can be made after a Detailed Project Report is prepared.

(d) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Additional berths in Berhampur Express

159. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide additional berths in 2nd class in AC 2 Tier, First class etc. in 3 Up and 4 Dn Berhampur Express,, from Ganjam District (Orissa) to Howrah; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a Super Fast Express Train between Berhampur Ganjam District